

Message Text

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SUBJ: DECEMBER 3 MEETING WITH DELEGATION FROM NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF ARAB AMERICANS

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF A BRIEFING MEMO FOR YOUR MEETING
WITH A DELEGATION FROM THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ARAB
AMERICANS ON DECEMBER 3, 1974:

QUOTE. YOUR MEETING WITH A DELEGATION FROM THE NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF ARAB AMERICANS (NAAA) - TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3,
1974, AT 3:00 P.M.

PARTICIPANTS

U.S. --

THE SECRETARY,

NEA/ARN NOTETAKER, PIERCE K. BULLEN

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ARAB AMERICANS --

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RICHARD C. SHADYAC, NATIONAL PRESIDENT OF THE NAAA AND
SPOKESMAN FOR THE DELEGATION,

EDMOND HOWAR, NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT OF THE NAAA,

ANTHONY ABRAHAM, PRESIDENT, INTERNATIONAL WORLD-LEBANESE

CULTURAL UNION,
MINOR GEORGE, PRESIDENT OF MIDWEST FEDERATION OF AMERICAN/
SYRIAN/LEBANESE CLUBS

GEORGE T. MAHSHIE, NAAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
PETER S. TANOUS, PAST PRESIDENT OF THE NAAA
WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE GROUP WOULD APPRECIATE BEING PHOTO-
GRAPHED, AND WE HAVE ARRANGED FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS TO BE
PRESENT BRIEFLY AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING.

CHECKLIST --

-- SOUTHERN LEBANON - ASSURE DELEGATION THAT THE U.S. DE-
PLORES THE VIOLENCE IN THIS AREA AND REMAINS FIRMLY
COMMITTED TO THE SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF
LEBANON. .

-- PLO - REAFFIRM U.S. POLICY THAT THE LEGITIMATE INTERESTS
OF THE PALESTINIANS MUST BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

--AID TO ISRAEL - PUT U.S. AID TO ISRAEL IN OVERALL CON-
TEXT OF MIDDLE EAST SITUATION.

-- HIGH OIL PRICES - ASSURE THEM THAT YOUR PUBLICLY STATED
CONCERN OVER HIGH PRICES IS NOT DIRECTED ONLY AGAINST
ARAB PRODUCERS.

-- GENEVA CONFERENCE -- EXPLAIN THAT THE U.S. IS NOT
OPPOSED TO THE RECONVENING OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE AT
THE APPROPRIATE TIME.

-- STATUS OF JERUSALEM - EXPLAIN THAT THE STATUS OF
JERUSALEM IS A DIFFICULT QUESTION THAT SHOULD BE ADDRESSED
IN A LATER STAGE OF NEGOTIATIONS.

SETTING --

THE NAAA DELEGATION'S OBJECTIVE IS TO EXPRESS THE ASSOCIA-
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TION'S POSITION ON A NUMBER OF ISSUES. WE EXPECT THEM TO
WANT PARTICULARLY TO COMMUNICATE TO YOU THEIR CONCERN OVER
THE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON.

A MEETING WITH THIS GROUP WOULD AFFORD THEM THE SATISFAC-
TION OF SEEING YOU PERSONALLY (THEY POINT OUT THAT YOU
HAVE MET FREQUENTLY WITH AMERICAN JEWISH GROUPS) AND GIVE
YOU THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN OUR POLICIES AND GAIN THEIR
SUPPORT FOR OUR STEP-BY-STEP EFFORTS TOWARD A MIDDLE EAST
PEACE SETTLEMENT.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

WE RECOMMENDED THAT YOU MEET WITH THIS GROUP BECAUSE, WHILE ITS REPRESENTATIVES INCLINE TO EXPRESS THEMSELVES EMOTIONALLY, IT IS A GENERALLY MODERATE, RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZATION REPRE-

SENTING A LARGE BODY OF AMERICANS OF ARAB ANCESTRY WHO OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS HAVE TAKEN AN INCREASINGLY ACTIVE INTEREST IN OUR MIDDLE EAST POLICY. LEADERS OF THE NAAA HAVE MET IN THE PAST WITH SECRETARIES ROGERS AND RUSK AS WELL AS WITH MR. SISCO. PRESIDENT SHADYAC HAS WRITTEN YOU SEVERAL TIMES REQUESTING A MEETING, AND IN FACT TWO MEETINGS WERE ACTUALLY SCHEDULED (MAY 17 AND NOV. 11) BUT EACH HAD TO BE CANCELLED BECAUSE OF THE EXTENSION OF YOUR TRAVELS ABROAD.

THE GROUP IS COMPOSED MAINLY OF PERSONS OF LEBANESE ORIGIN, REFLECTING THE FACT THAT MOST ARAB-AMERICANS COME FROM LEBANON AND SYRIA. FOR THIS REASON THE DELEGATION WILL TEND TO BE PRIMARILY CONCERNED WITH ISSUES THAT AFFECT LEBANON DIRECTLY. THE ASSOCIATION HAS BETWEEN TEN AND TWELVE THOUSAND MEMBERS AND REPRESENTS OVER ONE MILLION ARAB AMERICANS.

THE DELEGATION INTENDS TO PRESENT YOU WITH A PAPER OUTLINING THE ASSOCIATIONS' POSITIONS AND SUPPORTING ARGUMENTS ON SEVERAL MIDDLE EAST ISSUES. WE HAVE SET FORTH THE ISSUES THEY ARE LIKELY TO RAISE ORALLY IN A LATTER SECTION OF THIS MEMO.

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COURTESY POINTS

-- YOU SHOULD EXPRESS REGRET TO THE DELEGATION THAT THE TWO PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS HAD TO BE CANCELLED.

ISSUES/TALKING POINTS

1. ISRAELI RAIDS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON

THIS IS A MOST SALIENT ISSUE TO THE ASSOCIATION. THEY HAVE BEEN CONCERNED BY THE NUMEROUS RECENT INCIDENTS OF ISRAELI ARTILLERY SHELLING AND AIRSTRIKES INTO SOUTHERN LEBANON; A PRIME EXAMPLE, WHICH MR. SHADYAC MAY CITE, WAS THE ISRAELI AIR ATTACK ON NABATIYEH (A MAJOR POPULATION CENTER IN SOUTHEASTERN LEBANON) ON NOVEMBER 14 WHICH KILLED FIVE PERSONS AND WOUNDED AT LEAST 25 OTHERS. THE NAAA HAS EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS NOT PUBLICLY CONDEMNED THESE ACTS AND HAS POINTED OUT THAT WE HAVE PUBLICLY CONDEMNED MOST MAJOR ARAB TERRORIST ACTIONS AGAINST ISRAEL, INCLUDING THE RECENT ATTACK ON THE ISRAELI

TOWN OF BEIT SHE'AN. THEY WILL ASK THAT THE DEPARTMENT CONDEMN ISRAELI ATTACKS ON LEBANESE TERRITORY AND THAT YOU INTERVENE PERSONALLY WITH THE ISRAELIS TO PUT A STOP TO SUCH ACTIONS.

WE SUGGEST YOU SAY:

-- I WANT TO ASSURE YOU THAT WE DEPLORE THE ACTION-REACTION CYCLE OF VIOLENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE LOSS OF INNOCENT LIFE THIS HAS MEANT IN SOUTHERN LEBANON AS WELL AS IN ISRAEL. OUR ATTITUDE IN THIS MATTER IS ONE OF LONG STANDING AND IS UNDERSTOOD BY ALL PARTIES, B'T OUR TASK IS MADE MORE DIFFICULT BY THE FACT THAT THE PLO CONTINUES TO ASSERT THE RIGHT OF FEDAYEEN, OFTEN OPERATING OUT OF LEBANON, TO LAUNCH ATTACKS ON CIVILIAN TARGETS IN ISRAEL.

-- WE WANT TO BREAK THIS CYCLE OF VIOLENCE BY MOVING AHEAD WITH PEACE NEGOTIATIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. IN THIS REGARD, AGAIN I WANT TO THANK YOUR ASSOCIATION FOR ITS PAST SUPPORT OF OUR EFFORTS TO WORK TOWARD A JUST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

-- THE UNITED STATES REMAINS COMMITTED AS ALWAYS TO THE CONTINUED SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF LEBANON.

2. PLO

THE ASSOCIATION FAVORS UNITED STATES RECOGNITION OF THE PLO. THEY WILL PROBABLY PRESS THIS POINT WITH YOU, CITING THE SUPPORT OF THE ARAB AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY DEMONSTRATED BY THE DECISION OF THE RABAT SUMMIT AND THE TWO RESOLUTIONS, FAVORABLE TO THE PLO, EMERGING FROM THE UNGA DEBATE ON THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION. THEY WILL PROBABLY ARGUE THAT ON THE BASIS OF REALITY THE UNITED STATES MUST DEAL WITH THE PLO AS A RELEVANT ENTITY IN THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

IF THIS ISSUE IS RAISED, WE SUGGEST YOU SAY:

-- WE HAVE ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT THE LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF THE PALESTINIANS MUST BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN ANY PEACE SETTLEMENT, BUT THESE CANNOT BE AT THE EXPENSE OF ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST, WHICH THE PLO HAS NOT ACCEPTED.

-- OUR VOTES AGAINST THE INVITATION AND THE TWO RESOLUTIONS DID NOT REFLECT OUR INDIFFERENCE OR HOSTILITY TO THE PLIGHT OF THE PALESTINIANS BUT WAS BASED ON OUR

JUDGMENT OF HOW THE ADOPTION OF THESE RESOLUTIONS WOULD AFFECT THE FUTURE U.S. ROLE IN HELPING BRING ABOUT FURTHER MOVES TOWARD A PEACE SETTLEMENT.

3. U.S. AID TO ISRAEL

THE ASSOCIATION OPPOSES WHAT THEY PERCEIVE AS OUR HEAVY AID TO ISRAEL, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE DRAIN THEY BELIEVE THIS CONSTITUTES ON AMERICAN RESOURCES DURING THIS TIME OF ECONOMIC DIFFICULTY AT HOME. MR. SHADYAC HAS ALREADY MADE THIS OBJECTION TO YOU IN A LETTER TO WHICH YOU REPLIED. YOU MIGHT REPEAT THE SUBSTANCE OF YOUR REPLY BY MAKING THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

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-- UNITED STATES AID TO ISRAEL HAS TO BE VIEWED IN THE CONTEXT OF OUR OVERALL EFFORTS TO BRING PEACE TO THE MIDDLE EAST AND IN THE CONTEXT OF OUR AID TO ARAB STATES.

-- OUR AID TO ISRAEL ALSO MUST BE VIEWED IN THE LIGHT OF THE SPECIAL POSITION WHICH THE UNITED STATES HAS VIS-A-VIS ISRAEL IN PROCESS OF GETTING PEACE NEGOTIATIONS STARTED. IT IS VITAL THAT WE MAINTAIN OUR CREDIBILITY WITH THE ISRAELIS IN ORDER TO MAXIMIZE THE CHANCES FOR PROGRESS TOWARD A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT ON THE PART OF ALL PARTIES TO THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT.

4. HIGH OIL PRICES

IN HIS SAME LETTER TO YOU, MR. SHADYAC ALSO PROTESTED YOUR REMARKS AT THE UNITED NATIONS LAST SEPTEMBER IN WHICH YOU VOICED CONCERN OVER HIGH OIL PRICES. MR. SHADYAC OBJECTED THAT YOUR REMARKS HAD A THREATENING TONE WHICH WAS DIRECTED AT THE ARAB OIL PRODUCERS. THE GROUP MAY ARGUE THAT THE IMPETUS FOR HIGHER OIL PRICES COMES NOT FROM THE ARAB PRODUCERS BUT FROM NON-ARAB MEMBERS OF OPEC SUCH AS IRAN AND VENEZUELA. WE SUGGEST YOU SAY:

-- LET ME ASSURE YOU THAT MY SPEECH AT THE UN WAS NOT INTENDED TO SINGLE OUT THE ARAB OIL PRODUCERS.

-- MY CONCERN IS THAT PRESENT OIL PRICES ARE PUTTING A STRAIN ON THE WORLD ECONOMY THAT IF UNCORRECTED WILL OVER A PERIOD OF TIME CREATE A VERY SERIOUS SITUATION FOR THE WEST AND FOR THE WORLD ECONOMY AS A WHOLE.

5. GENEVA CONFERENCE

THE ASSOCIATION FAVORS AN EARLY RESUMPTION OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE AND THE DELEGATION MAY ASK WHY THE UNITED STATES HAS NOT DONE MORE PUBLICLY TO PUSH FOR THIS. WE

SUGGEST YOU EXPLAIN OUR POSITION ON GENEVA AND ASSURE THE

GROUP THAT THE UNITED STATES CONTINUES TO FAVOR THE
RECONVENING OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE AT A TIME DEEMED
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APPROPRIATE BY ALL THE PARTICIPANTS.

6. STATUS OF JERUSALEM

THE ASSOCIATION FAVORS THE INTERNATIONALIZATION OF
JERUSALEM. THE GROUP MAY RAISE THIS AND URGE THE U.S. TO
ENDORSE INTERNATIONALIZATION PUBLICLY. AS YOU KNOW, THE
ISSUE OF JERUSALEM IS A VERY EMOTIONAL ONE ON WHICH THERE
HAS BEEN LITTLE FLEXIBILITY ON EITHER SIDE. WE SUGGEST
YOU SAY:

-- WE RECOGNIZE THE SIGNIFICANCE OF JERUSALEM TO ALL
FAITHS IN THE MIDDLE EASTERN REGION.

-- BUT THE ISSUE OF THE ULTIMATE STATUS OF JERUSALEM IS
A VERY DIFFICULT ONE WITH STRONGLY HELD POSITIONS ON BOTH
SIDES.

-- THIS ISSUE, BECAUSE OF ITS DIFFICULTY, IS ONE WE
BELIEVE MUST BE APPROACHED IN A LATER STAGE OF THE STEP-
BY-STEP PROCESS OF NEGOTIATION.

POINTS FOR YOU TO MAKE

THE FOLLOWING ISSUES WILL PROBABLY ARISE DURING THE COURSE
OF THE DISCUSSION BUT IF THEY DO NOT IT WOULD BE USEFUL
FOR YOU TO MAKE THESE POINTS:

-- THE UNITED STATES CONTINUES FULLY TO SUPPORT THE
SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF LEBANON.

-- WE ARE DETERMINED TO PURSUE OUR EFFORTS TO BRING
ABOUT A JUST AND LASTING PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. WE
BELIEVE OUR STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH IS THE MOST EFFECTIVE
MEANS FOR ACHIEVING THIS GOAL. HOWEVER, THIS APPROACH
DEMANDS REALISM AND PATIENCE ON THE PART OF THE PARTIES.
END QUOTE. INGERSOLL

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